

# The Ames Intelligencer

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## Old Fashioned Ceremonies To Mark School Dedication

The recently fully restored 1861 Hoggatt school, first in Ames, will be dedicated to the services of education and the preservation of the Ames heritage at simple, old-fashioned ceremonies in the school yard on Sunday, May 22.

At the ceremony, children from Ames schools will sing patriotic and

### Audience Seated

The dedication audience will be seated on folding chairs and on recently installed log seats.

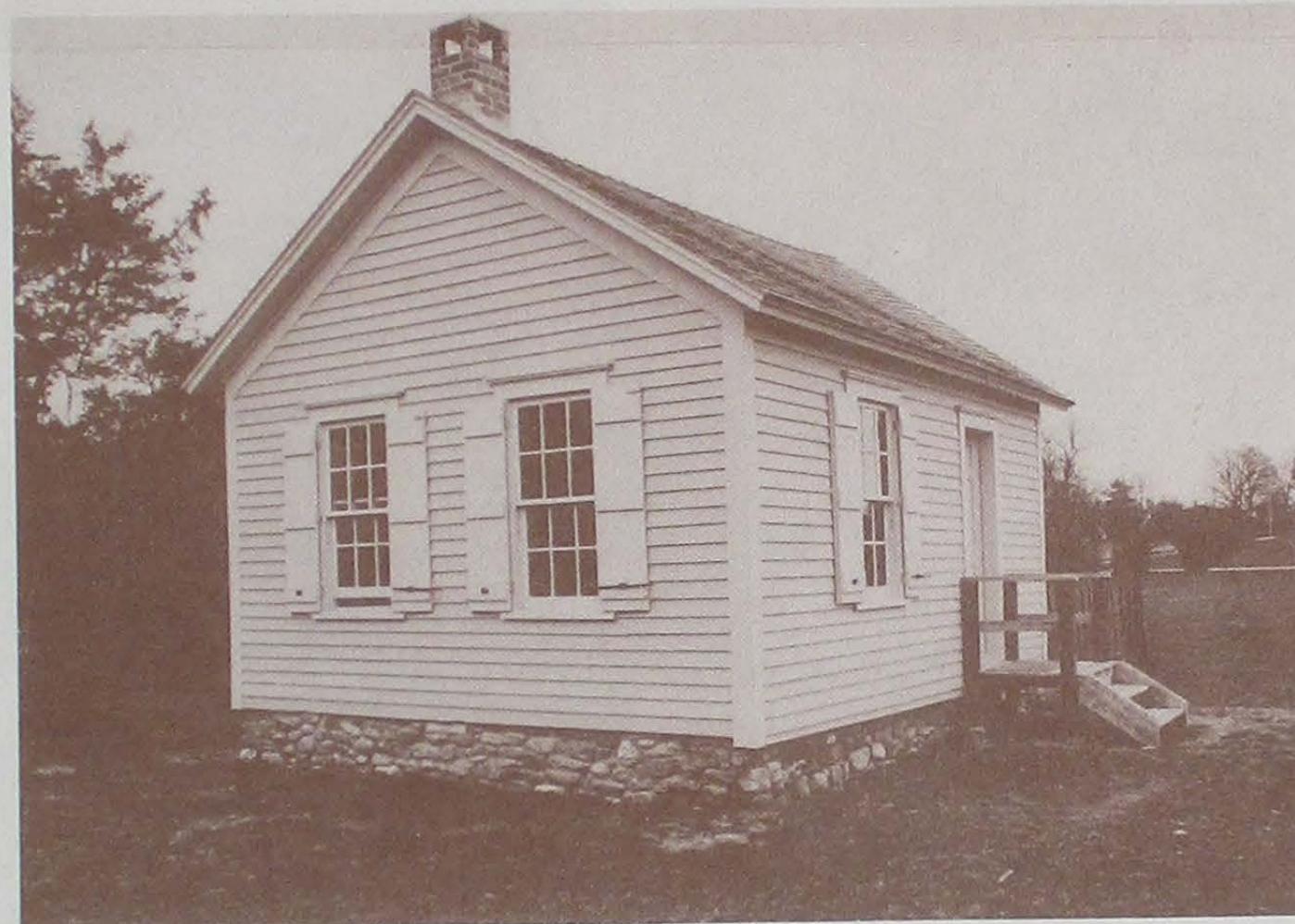
In case of rain, ceremonies will be moved to Meeker school auditorium.

period songs that undoubtedly echoed from the little school when it first opened during Civil War times. An instrumental group of Ames students will play mostly period music.

In keeping with tradition, local dignitaries will make speeches, as almost certainly local dignitaries spoke when the school first opened. At this ceremony, dignitaries will be from Ames Public Schools and from the Ames Heritage Association.

Costumed as teachers of the period, Polly Gossard and Suzanne Kelly will extend invitation to the audience to visit the school and to make use of it. Robert Glenn, dressed as a circuit rider, may complain about getting lost as he rode through the tall grass trying to find his way to Ames. Several groups used the school occasionally for services on Sundays before their churches were built.

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*Restored, refurbished and refurnished, historic 1861 Hoggatt School awaits rededication on May 22.*  
— Photo by Kathleen Saccopoulos

### Dedication of Restored Hoggatt School

Sunday, May 22, 1983 at 1 p.m. in the Hoggatt School Yard, Burnett Avenue at 18th Street.

#### Program

Herbert R. Hatch, former principal Meeker School, presiding.

“America” by Meeker School Chorus, Fred Anderson, conducting.

Introductory Remarks, F. Terrill Adams, president Ames Heritage Association.

Reminiscences, Farwell T. Brown, former president Ames Heritage Association.

Songs, Meeker School Chorus.

Dedicatory Statement, David L. Moorhead, former superintendent, Ames Public Schools.

Observation on Uses of School, Paul Masem, superintendent, Ames Public Schools.

Closing Music, student instrumental group and audience.

Invitation to inspect Hoggatt Building, Polly Gossard, Suzanne Kelly and Robert Glenn, in 1860's costumes.

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Ames Heritage Association  
1523 Curtiss ave  
Ames, Iowa 50010

F. Terrill Adams, *president*

## Grave Remembered After 60 Years

A simple granite stone this spring will be placed in the Ames Municipal cemetery to mark the grave of Henry May, first teacher in the Ames public schools and a diplomat appointed by Abraham Lincoln.

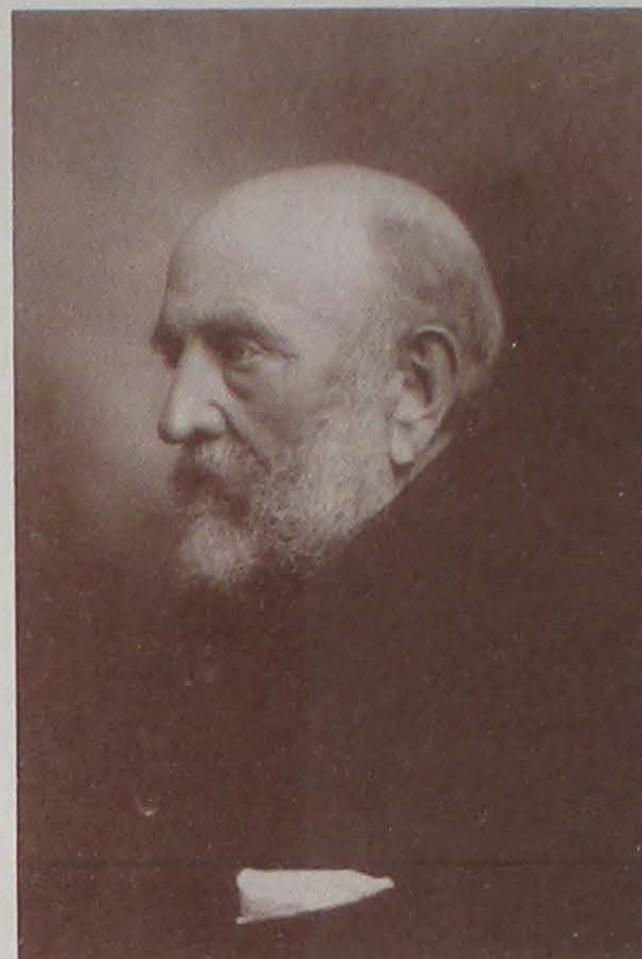
May died in 1919 in his nineties, and his wife, Ellen, died in 1909, but their graves never were marked. This stone, scheduled for placement before Memorial Day, will be provided by the Ames Heritage Association.

May, who with Ellen arrived in Ames in 1866, taught three terms in the little 1861 Hoggatt schoolhouse recently moved to the Meeker school grounds and restored. Washington and Grant townships shared costs of the school while May taught there.

May continued to teach after the newly organized Ames schools built a two story, two room frame building that stood near the site of the present Lincoln Building, making him the first Ames public school teacher. Sarah J. Emery had preceeded May as teacher at Hoggatt School but worked for the township.

To his teaching job in the rustic Hoggatt school in Ames then with only about 100 residents, May brought a remarkable background of education and experience. He had served as a diplomat in France and in Africa. He was reputed to hold advanced university degrees and probably was the best educated man in the little community.

The railroad had reached Ames only a year before the Mays did. This man with international experience and a friend of national leaders must have been pleased to realize that he lived in a town destined to have a college.



*Henry May, diplomat and teacher.*

Work was in progress on old Main, the first major building on what now is the Iowa State University campus.

The Mays built their home near what now is the intersection of Duff Avenue and Eleventh Street but was then a considerable distance north of any Ames streets. The community was scattered with a few farm homes to the north and west, and only a dozen houses were within the original town of Ames. Several houses were scattered along what was then known as the Boone road, now Lincoln Way.

During his career in Africa he was located at Gaboon when a plague called the "Black Sickness" raged. He fell victim to the disease and survived by relying heavily on quinine and brandy. It was this experience that was believed to have caused him to leave diplomatic service and come to the midwest after the Civil War.

Many details about his life are missing, but it is certain that a few years after he taught school he became the first rural mail delivery man out of Ames.

The account of his death published on the front page of the Ames Evening Times on May 16, 1919, refers to the African bout with disease as haunting him "like a black spectre for many years and was his undoing as far as material success in the world is concerned."

## Local History Next Big Project

The publication of a history of Ames has been selected as the next major project of the Ames Heritage Association.

The Association's publication committee at present seems to favor publication of a general history extensively illustrated with old photographs. But under consideration is a book about historic and exceptional Ames homes. Some discussion concerns a long range series of publications about Ames.

Under present consideration are printing and publication costs, marketing plans, authorship and other details. The committee consists of Rodney Fox, chairman; Farwell Brown, Bess Ferguson, Ruth Hamilton and Mary-Peale Schofield.

Work on the book is expected to start shortly, but quality standards have been set so high that at least a year will be required to complete the work.

### Ceremonies - *from page 1*

Two years ago Hoggatt school, then a dilapidated, weather-beaten, unstable shack, was moved to its present site on the Meeker school grounds by the Ames Heritage Association. Now the once desolate edifice has been repaired, refurbished and refurnished to almost its original appearance, both inside and out.

### Memberships Sought

To help preserve Ames history and tradition, join the more than 200 Ames Heritage Association members already working for the cause.

Annual membership dues are: Regular, \$5; Business and Organization, \$25 or more; Sustaining, \$100; Life, \$1,000.

Make checks payable to Ames Heritage Association and send them to Rodney Fox, secretary, 1523 Curtiss Ave., Ames, Iowa 50010.